

**ABSTRACT**

1        A method of accelerating the operation of a load balancer by an accelerator switch. The  
2 method includes receiving, by the accelerator switch, packets directed to the load balancer,  
3 determining, for at least some of the received packets, whether the packets match an entry of a  
4 list of packet groups, by comparing fewer than five parameters of the packets to respective  
5 fields of entries of the list, and forwarding, by the accelerator switch, at least some of the  
6 received packets, directly to their destination, responsive to the determining.

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